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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF ITALY celebrated the centennial of its establishment April 15–23d.

DR. ALFRED KOCH has been appointed a.-o. professor of vegetable physiology in the University of Göttingen.

THE FORTHCOMING supplementary volume of Saccardo's Sylloge Fungorum will be XI, and not IX as stated in the April GAZETTE.

DR. V. HAVARD has published, in *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* (March), a very interesting paper on the food plants of the North American Indians.

PROF. L. H. BAILEY contributes to the special spring trade edition of the *Florist's Exchange* (7: 387. 30 Mr 1895) an account of the evolution of American horticulture.

GASTON, MARQUIS DE SAPORTA died at Aix, Provence, on January 26, at the age of 72. He was pre-eminent among students of the fossil flora of Tertiary and Mesozoic formations.

PROF. LEON GUIGNARD has received the high honor of election to the French Academy, succeeding the late Duchartre. Botanists will heartily approve this action as a recognition of genuine merit.

MR. E. H. ACTON, who has become known to American botanists chiefly through his book (in conjunction with Mr. Francis Darwin) entitled "Practical Physiology of Plants," died suddenly at Cambridge, England, from heart disease, on February 15th.

A NEW PLANT HOUSE over 170 feet long, and of handsome construction, has been erected at the Central Experiment Station of California. It cost about $13,500. It is located beside the botanic garden of the University, which has now become an important adjunct of the botanical department.

THE "SPRAY CALENDAR," sent out by the horticultural department of the Cornell Experiment Station, both last year and this, giving directions for combating plant diseases, has beeen reprinted by the Missouri Station and variously imitated by others. It is a model in way of concise statement.

THE DEATH OF ISAAC SPRAGUE, which occurred March 15th at his home in Wellesley Hills, Mass., removes a botanical artist whose name will always be closely associated with that of Dr. Asa Gray. There was nothing finer at the time than Sprague's illustrations, and his studies set the pattern for later botanical artists.

THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY announces summer courses to continue from July 9th to August 17th, consisting of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, experimental psychology and pedagogy. The course in "biology" has not the faintest trace of a botanical side to it, or any indication that the organic world contains any other forms than those of animals. The vegetable world can not be said to be ignored by the professor in charge, but rather undiscovered.

M. ED. BUREAU has announced the publication, under his direction, of a series of French colonial floras, of the same general style as the colonial floras prepared at Kew. The work has been assigned to several botanists, and the material for study is contained in the great herbaria of the Museum. Some of these floras have already appeared.

PROF. F. LAMSON-SCRIBNER has just published, from the Department of Agriculture, accounts of "the flat pea" (*Lathyrus sylvestris Wagneri*) and "sachaline" (*Polygonum Sachalinense*), both of them forage plants, concerning which large claims have been made. Accounts are given which should temper enthusiasm, and at the same time inform concerning the possible service of these plants.

PROF. LESTER F. WARD, in *Science* (March 29th), has compared the Mesozoic flora of Portugal with that of the United States (Potomac beds), finding a remarkable parallelism. The occasion of the paper is the appearance of Marquis Saporta's "Flore fossile du Portugal." The archetypal angiosperms, "Protangiosperms," are also discussed, which seem to be remarkable illustrations of what were once called "comprehensive types."

AMERICAN WOODS prepared and published by R. B. Hough of Lowville, N. Y., has reached the sixth volume. The work consists of thin sections of wood, mounted in book form, and accompanied with explanatory text. Each volume embraces twenty-five species. The first four volumes include most of the woods of New York and the adjoining states, volume five is devoted to Florida woods, and volume six to those of California.

EXPERIMENTS with cultures of algæ (Conjugatæ), by Bokorny, to determine the effect of the absence of calcium and magnesium on the cell organs, lead him to the conclusion that the absence of Ca occasions a poorly developed chlorophyll apparatus, while the want of both Ca and Mg entails a shrinkage of both nucleus and chlorophyll bodies. A decided diminution in the size of the nucleus seemed also to result from the lack of Mg alone. (Cf. Bot. Centralb. 62: 1. 1895.)

PLANT MODELS, showing the course of the fibrovascular bundles in the stem, forms of the embryo, arrangement of the apical cells, mechanical system of leaves and stems, reproductive organs of liverworts, stomata, arrangements of flowers for pollination, and many other structures, are offered for sale by Heinrich Gasser, whose address is Graz III, Leechgasse 22 E, Austria. The models of stomata and flowers have movable parts, to show the natural automatic movements. A price list will be sent on application.

EVEN THE *Index Kewensis* is held up to obloquy *in re* nomenclature! In a paper (from Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. II. 4: 559. 19 Mr 1895) on two species of Aquilegia Miss Alice Eastwood remarks anent her *A. ecalcarata*, "According to the Index Kewensis, A. ecalcarata is a synonym of *A. vulgaris* L. As I am not in sympathy with the movement that is producing such chaos in nomenclature and do not care to become a name changer myself, I leave it with the name under which it has been described." How easy!

THE FIRST FASCICLE of *Musci Europaei Exsiccati*, issued by MM. F. Renauld and J. Cardot has been distributed. American bryologists who desire European species for comparison with our own are advised to procure this set of exsiccati. The specimens are ample and well prepared, while the names of the authors are a guarantee of care and accuracy in the determinations. Prof. J. M. Holzinger, Winona, Minn., is the author's agent in this country.

THE *Bull. de l'Herb. Boiss.* for February contains a list, with descriptions of many new species, of the *Graphideæ* of Eckfeldt collected in Louisiana and Florida, by Dr. J. Müller; a continuation of the fungi of equatorial regions (with plate), by Patouillard and Lagerheim, containing numerous new species and two new genera (*Punctularia*, a hymenomycete, and *Xylobotryum*, a pyrenomycete); and descriptions of new oriental caryophylls, by J. Freyn.

ANOTHER SERIAL PUBLICATION! Alas the day! The first volume of the Memoirs from the Department of Botany of Columbia College, now in press, contains *A monograph of the North American species of the genus Polygonum*, by Mr. John K. Small. It is illustrated by life-sized figures of all the species and by figures of the stem anatomy of the several subgenera. There are eighty-six plates in all and about two hundred pages of text. The Memoirs will be issued at irregular intervals—probably at long intervals—and each volume or part will be published at a fixed price.

PARTS 113, 114, 115 and 116 of *Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, just issued, contain the completion of Guttiferæ by Engler, Dipterocarpaceæ by Brandis and Gilg; Ancistrocladaceæ by Gilg; Elatinaceæ and Frankeniaceæ by Niedenzu; the completion of Borraginaceæ by Gürke; the beginning (55 genera) of Verbenaceæ by Briquet; the completion of Bignoniaceæ by Schumann; Pedaliaceæ and Martyniaceæ by Stapf; Globulariaceæ by Wettstein; and the beginning (122 genera) of Acanthaceæ by Lindau.

DR. F. W. KLATT, in *Ann. k. k. naturhist. Hofmuseum* (9: 355), describes forty new Compositæ from tropical America (Mexico, Central America, and the northwestern South American states) from material in the herbarium at Vienna. As this region is just now receiving large attention from American botanists it is well to note that this fascicle contains new species of the following genera: Eupatorium (10), Brickellia (1), Heterotheca (1), Aster (1), Baccharis (1), Lagascea (1), Baltimora (1), Schizoptera (1), Sclerocarpus (1), Viguiera (1), Verbesina (2), Liabum (2), Culcitium (2), Senecio (10), Gynoxys (1), Werneria (2), Othonna (1), Crepis (1).

BULLETINS 5 and 7 of the North Carolina Geological Survey are devoted to forestry. No. 5 treats of the forests, forest lands, and forest products of eastern North Carolina; and no. 7 of forest fires, their destructive work, causes, and prevention; both by W. W. Ashe, who is in charge of the forest investigation. The reports are exceedingly well prepared and deal with one of our most important forest areas. Attention is specially called to the continued and unnecessary destruction of the forests of the eastern counties by fires and stock and the importance of remedying the evil before it is too late; and also to the fact that the quality and value of the "naval store" products may be increased some $200,000 per year by the adoption of the French system of gathering the turpentine.

PROF. L. M. UNDERWOOD, in *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* (March), makes a plea for uniformity in the names of the larger plant groups, illustrating his suggestion by outlining the archegoniates. There has been great variance in usage among the systematists who have dealt with phanerogams, while the cryptogamists and zoologists have been more uniform. The proposition is to conform to the long established zoological usage, and to use as primary divisions the following terms and sequence: sub-kingdom, class, order, family, genus, species. This does away with such terms as "branch," "series," "cohort," which have crept in among phanerogams, and makes an "order" stand for a group of related families. Professor Underwood would recognize four sub-kingdoms: Mycetozoa, Thallophyta, Archegoniata, and Spermatophyta, the first two sub-kingdoms being as yet essentially tentative. Under Archegoniata the author would include three classes, Bryophyta, Pteridophyta and Gymnospermæ. Under Bryophyta he would recognize seven orders, abandoning the long-used sub-class names, Hepaticæ and Musci, as meaningless. The general suggestion certainly has very much in its favor.

VEGETABLE PATHOLOGY is treated, in some of its phases, largely or exclusively in the following bulletins from the experiment stations: Potato scab by H. J. Wheeler, J. D. Towar and G. M. Tucker (R. I., no. 30) gives the results in the development of scab when the soil conditions are varied; Potato blight and scab by F. Wm. Rane (W. Va., no. 38); Potato scab and its prevention, also Bacteriosis of rutabaga by L. H. Pammel (Iowa, no. 27) giving results of experiments and microscopic study; Field experiments with fungicides on turnips, cabbage, tomatoes, potatoes and beans by B. D. Halsted and J. A. Kelsey (N. J., no. 108); Treatment of smut in wheat and potato scab by H. L. Bolley (N. D., no. 19), a condensed statement with directions for field use; Grain smuts and potato scab by Aven Nelson (Wy., no. 21), outline of the subjects for information of the cultivator; Spraying orchards and potato fields by L. R. Jones (Vt., no. 44), embodies experiments of 1894; Some fungous diseases of beets by B. D. Halsted (N. J., no. 107), describes three common and three rare diseases; Spraying pear and apple orchards by S. A. Beach (N. Y., no. 84) gives results of experiments; Black knot by E. G. Lodeman (Cornell, no. 81) includes observations on mode of entrance of the spores, results of spraying and a bibliography; The quince in western New York, also Recent apple failures in western New York by L. H. Bailey (Cornell, nos. 80 and 84), both partly devoted to diseases, the latter especially treating of apple scab (Fusicladium) with good illustrations, including a colored plate.